

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MOBILITY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Signs		NUMBER: MM-328
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Open Joints on Bridge Sign		DATE: December 9, 2003
		SUPERSEDES: TE-308
DIRECTED TO: District Administrators	SIGNATURE: <i>Raymond J. Khoury, P.E.</i>	

The Department has developed a sign to warn motorcyclists of open longitudinal joints in the travel lanes on bridges for both temporary (construction) and permanent situations regardless of the roadway type/class or the posted speed. Signs shall be installed for longitudinal joints that meet both of the following criteria:

- ☐ Joint is parallel or no more than 30 degrees from parallel to the traffic lane
- ☐ Joint width is 1½ inches or greater

Sign installations should also be considered for locations where the longitudinal joints are less than 1½ inches in width.

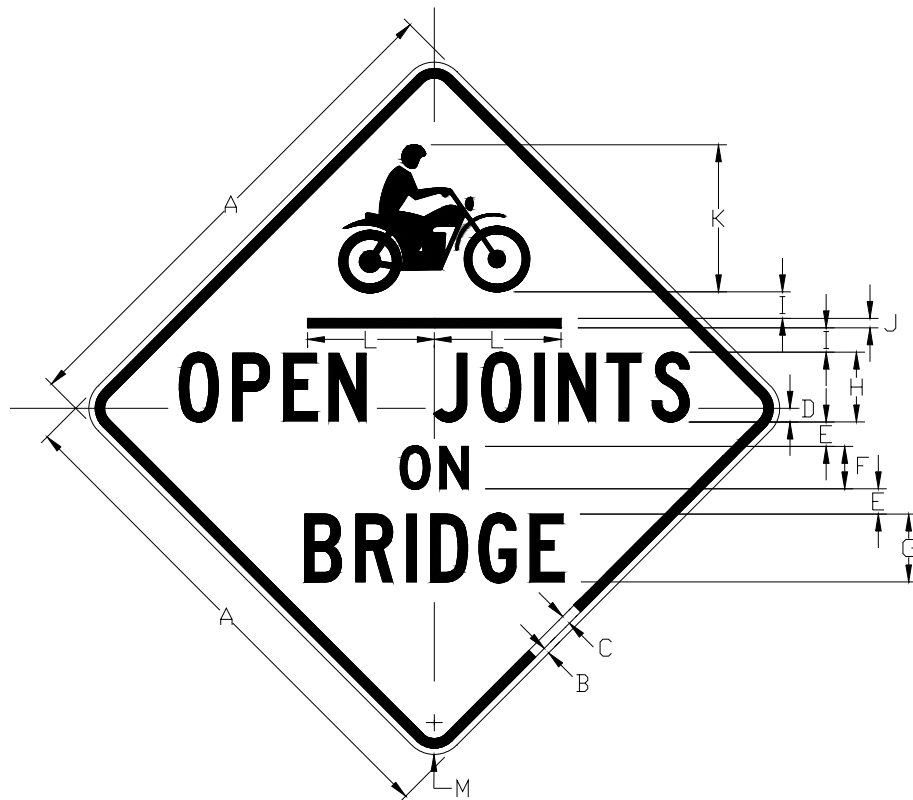
Cold weather contraction shall be considered in the determination of the joint's width. Joints that contain joint filler are not excluded from the provisions of this memorandum since cold weather contraction may create a less than level riding surface.

These requirements are based upon recommendations provided by the Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists.

Signs shall be fabricated in accordance with the attached design. Additional signing identifying the location of the joints (exit number, distance ahead, etc.) shall be installed beneath these signs when needed. New signs needed due to the modification of the policy by this memorandum shall be installed at known locations of open longitudinal joints no later than May 1, 2004.

cc: Mr. Philip A. Shucet
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This sign is intended for use in advance of open longitudinal joints of sufficient size on bridges that may cause motorcyclists to lose control. Sign size 3 should be erected on limited access roadways, sign size 2 on primary roadways and sign size 1 on ramps, secondary roadways, or primary roadways where sufficient right-of-way does not exist for the installation of the larger sign.

SIGN SIZE	DIMENSIONS (INCHES)												
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G ¹	H ²	I	J	K ³	L	M
1	36	$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	0	$1\frac{3}{4}$	3D	5C	5C	2	$\frac{7}{8}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	9	2
2	48	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	5D	7C	7C	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	14	12	3
3	60	$\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{8}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	3	5D	8C	8C	3	$1\frac{1}{8}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$	15	$3\frac{3}{4}$

¹ Horizontal spacing between letters is at 70% of the normal spacing for Sign Size 2.

² Horizontal spacing between letters is at 70% of the normal spacing for Sign Sizes 1 and 2. Horizontal spacing between words is reduced to $4\frac{1}{2}$ " for Sign Size 1 and 6" for Sign Size 2.

³ RL-150 symbol from the *Standard Highway Signs* book

COLORS

LEGEND – BLACK (NON-REFLECTIVE)

BACKGROUND – YELLOW OR FLUORESCENT ORANGE (REFLECTIVE)